

# FIRST COAST FLY FISHER

WWW.FCFF.ORG

JANUARY 2009



Photo: Rick Palazzini

# New FCFFers and Friends



*Dave Gallimore*

I had never been fly fishing until the fall of 2007. A buddy of mine invited me to Estes Park up in Colorado to play some golf and try some fishing. He turned out to be a much better fly fisherman than a golfer. Anyway, the trout fishing was phenomenal. I had no idea what I was doing and I still caught fish.

Then last Christmas, my Dad gave me a fly tying kit with all the bells and whistles. I found Black Fly Outfitters on Beach Blvd and got the chance to take a series of tying classes in May. However, I still didn't have a rod. My buddy finally sent me his nine-weight rod in November to get me off the dime. I learned a lot at last weeks "Bob Clouser" Day that you guys sponsored.

My wife's Shannon has absolutely no interest in fishing, but likez the idea of me not being around all the time. We have 4 daughters (which explains why I have no hair anymore). I'm a fixed income portfolio manager for Fidelity National Financial. I am from Chicago, but I have lived many places including Seattle, NYC and Nashville.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone.



*Jim Fallon*

Jim and his wife Julie and their three daughters moved to the Jacksonville area in 2000. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Jim worked for several northern railroads before arriving here to work for CSX.

He retired in 2004 after 32 years with the railroads. Jim is an avid golfer; just a year ago started his new fly fishing career. He joined FCFF in July 2008 and he looks forward to meeting and fishing with the members and learning from their experience.

(PS. He's still looking for his first redfish. You'll see him on the FCFF forum with the nickname 'Searcher.')

**Monday, Jan. 5 FCFF Meeting 7 p.m. - *Speaker Biologist Dana Morton.* Topic The Health of the St. Johns River. Renew Your Membership by or at the January Meeting and Receive a Free Ticket for The Grand Prize Raffle-- A Sage-Tibor Outfit.**

**Friday January 23 - *FCFF Yearly Banquet at UNF Convention Center.* Sign up at or by the January Meeting for A Ticket for the Grand Prize -- A Full Sage, Tibor Outfit.**

**Sunday, Jan 25 - *Banquet Festivities.* Come Learn Everything You Ever Needed To Know About Fly Fishing Florida's First Coast from Top Guides David Borries, Tony Bozzella, John Bottko, and Larry Miniard. Free for Dues Paid Members. Sign Up at Jan Meeting.**

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## ***FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS 2009 BANQUET JANUARY 23 AND 25, 2009***

### ***The Banquet Dinner – January 23, 2009***

The banquet dinner will be held on Friday, January 23, 2009 at the University of North Florida's University Center. John and Nancy Bottko will be giving a presentation on Fly Fishing the World from the First Coast.

We will have over \$8,000 in prizes, raffle and silent auction items from the Salty Feather, BlackFly Outfitters, Black Creek Outfitters and many others.

This year's grand prize drawing includes

***Sage 8-Weight Z-Axis Rod***

***Sage 4500 Series Reel***

***Scientific Angler Sharkskin Fly Line and Backing***

Tickets - \$40 per person. Each banquet ticket will include one (1) ticket for the Grand Prize Drawing. Each Paid Club Membership received by Monday, January 5, 2009 will receive one (1) extra ticket for the grand prize drawing.

### ***All Day Fly Fishing Seminar – January 25, 2009***

On Sunday, January 25, 2008, the FCFF will be presenting an all-day fly fishing seminar at Deep Creek Lodge. Come learn everything you need to know to fish Florida's First Coast from these top guides:

**Capt. John Bottko**

**Capt. David Borries**

**Capt. Tony Bozzella**

**Capt. Larry Miniard**





*Capt. Larry Miniard Demonstrates The Proper Way to Filet Fish At Deep Creek Lodge.  
Learn How Catch Local Fish From The Best Area Guides at The Annual Banquet, Jan 31.*

## *Banquet Seminar With Area's Top Guides*

Borries, Bottko, Bozzella & Miniard Seminar, Sunday Jan 25

John, Dave, Tony and Larry have over 100 years of combined experience fishing Northeast Florida. Together they will be presenting an all-day seminar on fly fishing Northeast Florida, top to bottom and season to season.

*This is your opportunity to learn:*

ÀxÜ *How to fish the seasons*

ÀxÜ *When fish bite*

ÀxÜ *Preferred flies and how to fish them*

ÀxÜ *How to fish around the tides*

ÀxÜ *How to surf fish with a fly*

ÀxÜ *The correct way to pole a boat*

ÀxÜ *How to cast in a wind*

ÀxÜ *The easy way to filet a fish*

ÀxÜ *Secrets of the Backcountry*

ÀxÜ *Favored rods and rigs*

ÀxÜ *Which lines for which purpose*

ÀxÜ *Much, Much, Much more.*

Deep Creek Lodge is located north of St. Augustine along the western side of the Intra-coastal Waterway. The Lodge is nestled along Deep Creek and is reminiscent of an old Florida fish camp. It is the ideal setting to spend the day learning the nuances of Fly Fishing the First Coast. Lunch will be provided by the club. The seminar is free to those members whose 2009 membership is paid in full.

**Directions to Deep Creek Lodge –**

ÀxÜ Travel South on US-1 to the US-1/CR-210-Palm Valley Road

Intersection

ÀxÜ Continue South on US-1 Approximately 4 Miles to Pine Island Road, East of US-1. There is a Landscaping Business at the northeast Corner of US-1 and Pine

Island Road. NOTE: Pine Island Road is approximately 2.5 miles north of the intersection of International Golf Parkway and US-1.

ÀxÜ Turn onto Pine Island Road and follow it approximately 3 miles. NOTE: Pine Island Road is a dirt road. Drive accordingly.

ÀxÜ Deep Creek Lodge will be on the Right. Look for a red privacy fence.

ÀxÜ Parking will be available along Pine Island Road.

**Directions to UNF University Center –**

ÀxÜ J. Turner Butler Blvd to the Kernan Blvd Exit

ÀxÜ Exit and turn north onto Kernan Blvd

ÀxÜ Turn West onto Alumni Blvd

ÀxÜ Turn Left into University Center Parking Lot

To attend the 2009 banquet and/or all-day Fly Fishing Seminar complete the application below. Submit the Banquet Application along with a 2009 Membership Application and your payment to:

**The First Coast Fly Fishers**

**PO Box 16260**

**Jacksonville, FL 32245-6260**

You may also pay for your banquet tickets and 2009 membership at the January 5, 2009 Club meeting. Please Note: To attend the banquet or all-day Fly Fishing Seminar, your 2009 First Coast Fly Fishers Membership Must be paid in Full. If you are unable to attend the banquet, but plan to attend the all-day seminar, please complete and submit the banquet application and indicate the number of members that will be attending. We need an accurate head count for lunch.

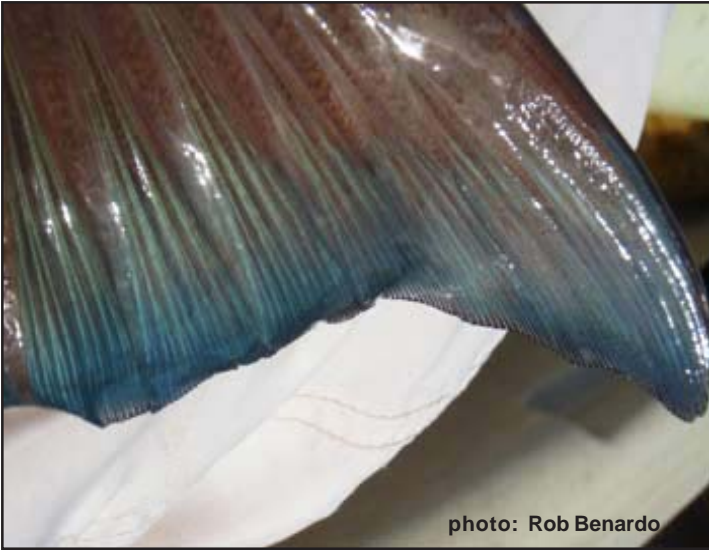


photo: Rob Benardo



photo: Rich Santos



photo: Woody Huband



photo: Rick Palazzini

## *Year's Favorite Photos*

[http://picasaweb.google.com/fcff2008/  
FavoritePhotosOf200802#slideshow](http://picasaweb.google.com/fcff2008/FavoritePhotosOf200802#slideshow)



photo: Woody Huband



photo: Woody Huband





## In Praise of Panfish

### *Outdoor Editor Uses Trout Flies in Ponds*

**by Steve Gibson**

*from the North Florida Fly Fishers Newsletter*

When I realized (long ago) that I've only touched the tip of the iceberg when it comes to fishing, I began to improve as an angler. And I continue to learn every day. With an open mind, my skills have sharpened immensely over the years and my success rate has improved proportionately.

Although I have done quite well fly fishing in salt water through the years, it's the lakes and streams that continue to beckon back like a pleasant distant memory. There's just something very alluring about a calm, warm morning on an uncrowded lake, river or creek.

Perhaps it goes back to my early angling days when I targeted bluegill. There's some truth to the belief that all (at least most) anglers cut their fishing teeth on these diminutive panfish.

I remember standing on a creek bank in West Virginia with my grandfather, my eyes glued to the red-and-white bobber dancing on the surface. And though I've taken tarpon, snook, redfish, spotted seatrout, jack crevalle, dolphin, amberjack, kingfish, false albacore, barramundi, butterfly peacock bass, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, brown trout, walleye, coho salmon, steelhead, guapote, bonefish, permit and others on fly, it's bluegill and other panfish that interest me most.

If I've got a red-hot snook bite going on along the beach, I'll gladly share that information with most anyone. If tailing redfish are hitting shrimp or crab imitations, I might even invite you along. But I'm very selective when it comes to sharing my bluegill spots with anyone. Why?

I enjoy the solitude. Nothing soothes the nerves better than casting for panfish on a local lake. With saltwater species abundant and heavily targeted, our freshwater species virtually

go ignored. So, catches of 100 or more fish per outing are fairly common.

It wasn't always that way, though. There were years when I'd head out on the water with a light fly rod and nothing but a box of popping bugs. Everything was fine as long as the top water action was strong. But when it slowed, I was out of luck.

I keep my eyes and ears open and my mouth shut when I'm around other anglers. Oh, I'll contribute when I think I can add to the conversation. But I'm eager to pick up any tidbit of information that I think might help out on my next outing.

That's why fishing with Joe Bursel of Sarasota and Ron Whiteley of Rotonda has been so beneficial. Between the two, they have more than 100 years of experience – and most of it via the fly rod. So, when I found out both are fascinated by and often use micro -jigs on panfish, I took note. I ordered several packages of 1/129-ounce jigs and began tying various patterns. Taking this to its natural progression, I began experimenting with tiny trout patterns on local lakes. I've found that bluegill, shellcracker, channel catfish and largemouth bass could care less that the micro jigs and tiny flies were designed for trout.

I still love to cast No. 12 poppers early in the day. It's tough to beat a bluegill rising to slurp in one of your surface creations. And I'll continue to cast poppers as long as the fish are willing to play. However, when that bite slows, I have a whole new arsenal on hand. And my new toys have resulted in steady action long after the fish begin ignoring popping bugs.

My favorite fly right now is a gold bead ribbed Hare's Ear on No. 10-14 hooks. I fish them about five feet below a strike indicator. A strike indicator is similar to a bobber. It's a tad small and used to detect minute bites. I learned while fishing northeast

*(continued on back page)*



*View  
From  
Woody's  
Lens*

*Top, Woody  
Huband Hoists A  
Beautiful Red With  
The Boat in  
Background;  
Bottom -John  
Adams Runs To  
Find Fish.  
Pholtos by Woody  
Huband*



# Lefty Kreh On Curves and Distance

Lefty -- My loop seems to curve to the left during the presentation. This doesn't seem to happen when I keep the cast completely vertical. There seems to be something wrong with my tracking when I move out to the side. I'm not following a straight line path, and it would appear that this is occurring early in the stroke, since the effect is not seen until the very end of the unfurling of the loop during the delivery. Any suggestions here?

Two additional questions I was wondering if you might comment on (if/when you have time): When casting short distances (30-40 feet) my casts are damn near perfect (if I do say so myself), but the problem for me begins when I attempt to make longer distance casts - 60/70/80 foot range. I seem to try to accelerate and stop the rod too abruptly. The result is a loop that looks like the first attached picture I sent (dans\_cast.gif) - a tailing (or very close to tailing) loop which occurs out at the end of the cast. If I attempt to 'smooth' out the cast by not shocking the rod so much, I just don't have the power. Hauling seems to exacerbate this. Any recommendations?

The second question is more of a general casting question and in this case a picture is worth 1000 words (see stroke.gif). I'm always being instructed to stop the rod earlier in my forward stroke because the loop will travel forward (as in the second figure), but it would appear that much of the stroke is wasted during what I have labeled the drift portion. How does one utilize this (as in the first figure) without driving the loop downward?. I was wondering your thoughts.

Finally, I just wanted to let you know how much of an impact your books and instructional videos have had on budding casters such as myself. I look forward to meeting you at some fly fishing show in the future and thanking you in person for all you've done for this tremendous sport we love,

Dan Storaska

Lefty answers-

As to your first question (loop to left) I don't know if you have my new casting book. But it is well explained in there that with any side backcast be sure to lay the forearm over at 45 or more degrees before starting and if the elbow tracks back and forth on the shelf and the thumb remains behind the rod handle from the target (NO TWISTING OF THE WRIST) the line will travel straight back.

The reason your vertical cast has no such problem is that your wrist does not twist on the cast and the thumb remains behind the rod handle from the target during the stroke.

One way people can easily correct such a problem is to think about their THUMBNAIL. The cast begins with the thumb behind the handle from the target—and the ELBOW SLIDES ON THE IMAGINARY SHELF. Raising the elbow off the shelf during the cast can create a number of problems.



The cast begins with the angler having a mental picture that THE THUMBNAIL WILL TRAVEL DIRECTLY AWAY FROM THE TARGET THROUGHOUT THE BACKCAST. This would eliminate your problem.

I am sure why your longer cast goes badly. You are using extra force with the rod hand—which tends to deteriorate your line loop. NEVER TRY TO GET ADDITIONAL EFFORT OUT OF THE ROD HAND. Instead—INCREASE THE HAUL SPEED. The book clearly explains this and shows how to make faster hauls without messing the loop.

REMEMBER A DOUBLE HAUL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A GEAR

SHIFT AND WHEN EXTRA EFFORT IS NEEDED GETTING FROM THE ROD HAND CREATES PROBLEMS—SIMPLY HAUL FASTER! Most casters use the same haul speed for most cast—a mistake.

Try this—hold the rod WITH ONLY THE THUMB AND FIRST TWO FINGERS. The small and ring finger are pointing away from the hand. You are gripping the rod ONLY with the thumb and first two fingers.

Now—you can't overpower the rod. To get more distance you need to change—increase—the speed of your haul. When you do this to get extra distance there is a natural inclination to overpower the rod hand—screwing up the loop. By greatly increasing haul speed and accelerating the rod with only the thumb and two fingers you can't overpower the rod. This will teach you that haul speed gets extra distance not how much force you apply with the rod hand.

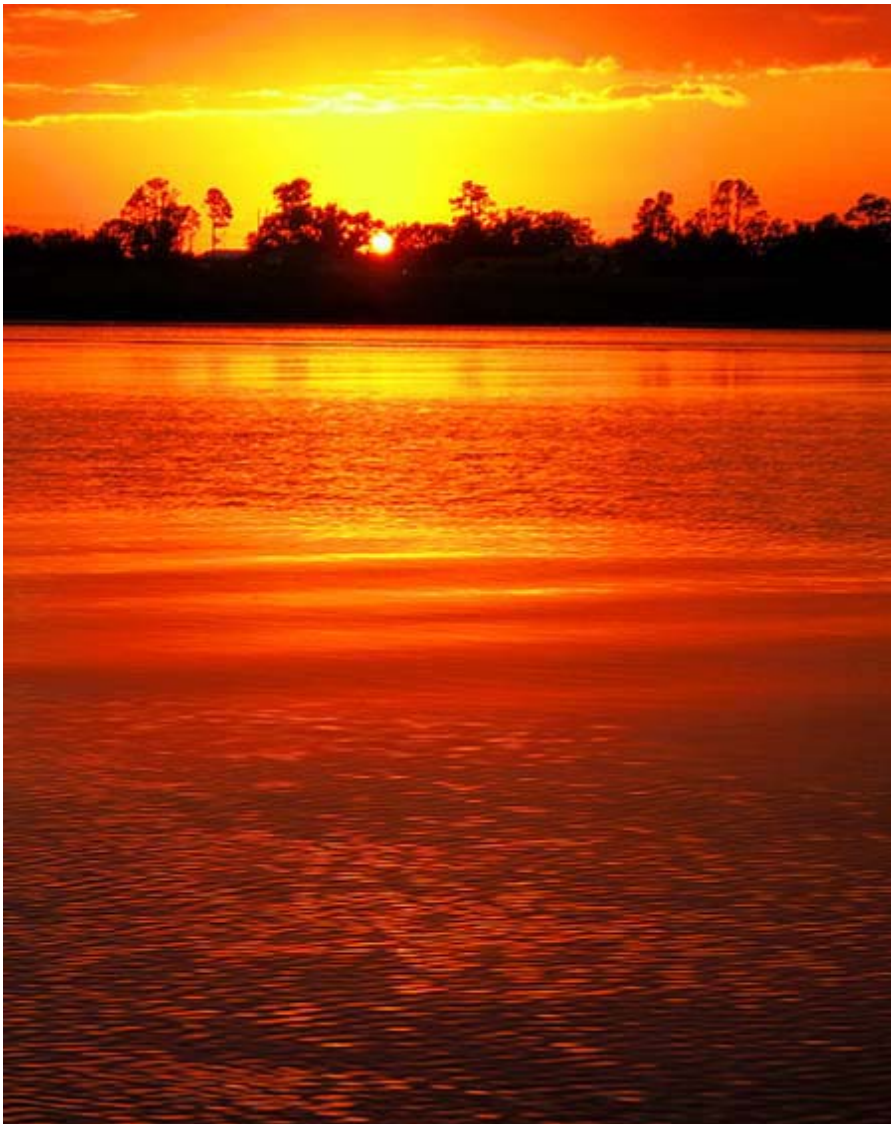
I am not sure what your last question is—but here is a simple way to learn or teach the proper forward casting stroke. Go to a Target or Wal-Mart store. They sell little travel bottles of hand lotion, toothpaste, etc—for a \$1 each. They also sell a small empty bottle. Buy it, throw away the cap. Attach at LEAST 2 feet of old fly line to the bottle—to the other end attach a fishing snap. Assemble the butt section and next section of a fly rod—do not put on the two upper sections. Attach the reel and clip the snap to the fly reel.

Place the empty bottle on the end of the rod section. Place the rod back to where a forward cast would begin. Tell the person to throw the bottle straight ahead. If they accelerate too soon or too fast the bottle will fly skyward. Within minutes they realize that the stop is made ONCE THE ROD HAND IS IN FRONT OF THE BODY THE PROPER FORWARD CAST OCCURS. If they accelerate too abruptly in the beginning this will cause the bottle to fly off in the wrong direction. I use 20 feet at least of line—if you use a shorter line the student often can't see the direction of flight.

Try this and let me know how it works.

All the Best, Lefty





*Steve Gibson* from page 6

Georgia trout streams that you need to set the hook whenever you even think the strike indicator does something out of the ordinary. On some occasions, the indicator might dip below the surface like a bobber. On other occasions, it might twitch. It might dart a fraction of an inch. It might not move at all. When you're slowly working the fly and the indicator doesn't move, set the hook!

Your retrieve can vary. Most of the time, I like to make my cast, allow the fly to sink for a few seconds, then begin retrieving in erratic slow, short strips. Two tugs and a pause have worked well for me. And it's usually on the pause that the fish hit.

Most of the time, I'm using a 2-weight fly rod, floating line and a 7 1/2-foot knotless leader with 5X tippet. You'd think that a sink tip line would be great for this type of fishing, and maybe it is for some. But for me, a strike indicator is paramount to my success. So, it's floating line for now. Rest assured that if some savvy angler comes along and spouts tales of impressive catches on 300-grain lines and hot pink worms, I'll give it a try. After all, why discount anyone's experience on the water? Just doesn't make sense.

Steve Gibson is outdoor editor for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

photo: Woody Huband

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